

and having, in a small space of time provided a suitable equipage, he set out to find Mirza. After having travelled seven days towards the point of the heavens in which the sun appears in its meridian lustre, he arrived at the Sultan Omar's caravanfara. He had often enquired of various Faquirs, whom he met on the road: If they knew the sage Mirza? and was told by them all, that there was not a sage in the east that could equal him for wisdom. He was not a little surprised to find votive tablets hung up in almost every part of the caravanfara to the honour of Mirza, by people who had been benefited by his wisdom. The three following were written on sky-coloured sattin, in letters of gold.

God alone is God. Nouridden Hassan, in gratitude to the illustrious sage, Mirza; for tho' he had been many years habituated to vice, he was in one hour, by Mirza's wisdom, made virtuous and happy. Praised be God.

The illustrious Emir, Ali, favourite to the greatest of Sovereigns, is indebted to Mirza for all the happiness he enjoys. Blessed be God.

Blessed be God, who is the fountain of virtue. Be it known to the faithful, that Aboul Mused, the Happy, is permitted by Mirza,

*Mirza, the sage, to stile himself his friend. Praised be God for all things.**

Judge if reading the last tablet was not a pleasure to Selim: he hastened, and turning the head of his camel towards the habitation of Mirza, ordered his attendants to wait till he returned: with double joy he went in search of him; expecting to have found him in a cottage-like retreat, he was surprised, after an hour's travel, to see before him a magnificent palace; but more so, when he was told, by some slaves, whom he met, that therein dwelt their master, the sage Mirza. The main building stood on the decline of a hill, the summit of which was covered by a wood of palm trees; before it, at the distance of a thousand paces, ran the great river Euphrates: between the house and the river were pastures, on which were cattle feeding without number: on the right-side of the house, as you approached it, were the stables and granaries; over against them stood the apartments for the domestics and chief slaves: in the front, betwixt the two wings, was a large basin; in the middle of it, on a pedestal of marble, was Charity, represented by a slave taking off the fetters of a horse that

* In every thing give thanks to God, who giveth to all liberally, and upbraideth not.

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